

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim listing replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly, comprising:
a base layer;
a plurality of optical fiber cores arranged planarly on the base layer;
a plurality of position limiting portions limiting a plurality of positions of said plurality of optical fibers;
an adhesive layer provided on said optical fiber cores; and
at least one tape layer for integrating said plurality of optical fiber cores into one body,
wherein said at least one tape layer has a tensile strength higher than an adhesive force of said at least one tape layer to said plurality of optical fiber cores,
said optical fiber cores are compression bonded to the at least one tape layer,
the adhesive layer is interposed between said optical fiber cores and the at least one tape layer, and
the plurality of position limiting portions are provided on at least one of the adhesive layer and the base layer.
2. (Previously presented) The ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said tape layer includes a film base, and said adhesive layer.
3. (Previously presented) The ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one tape layer has a high flame retardancy.

4. (Previously presented) A method of separating a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly into single cores, the fiber core assembly comprising:

- a base layer;
- a plurality of optical fiber cores arranged planarly on the base layer;
- a plurality of position limiting portions limiting a plurality of positions of said plurality of optical fibers;
- an adhesive layer provided on said optical fiber cores; and
- at least one tape layer for integrating said plurality of optical fiber cores into one body, wherein said at least one tape layer has a tensile strength higher than an adhesive force of said at least one tape layer to said plurality of optical fiber cores,
- said optical fiber cores are compression bonded to the at least one tape layer,
- the adhesive layer is interposed between said optical fiber cores and the at least one tape layer, and
- the plurality of position limiting portions are provided on at least one of the adhesive layer and the base layer,
- wherein the method comprises:
 - bending said optical fiber core assembly to break said plurality of optical fiber cores at a predetermined breaking position; and
 - applying a pulling force on said at least one tape layer in a direction of detachment from said plurality of optical fiber cores to thereby peel said at least one tape layer up to a predetermined position.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) A ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to claim 2, wherein gaps are formed between said plurality of optical fiber cores that are adjacent one another;

said adhesive layer is interposed in said gaps so that said gaps are filled with said adhesive layer; and

said at least one tape layer is provided so that said plurality of optical fiber cores and said adhesive layer are covered with said at least one tape layer.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) A tape core assembly-containing connector comprising:
a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 7, and
a multi-core connector connected with said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly.

10. (Previously presented) The tape core assembly-containing fiber array comprising:
a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 7, and
a fiber array connected with said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly.

11. (Previously presented) The optical wiring system comprising:
a ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly according to Claim 7,
wherein said ribbon-like optical fiber core assembly is wired.

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12-14. (Cancelled)